

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:ECINGRAHAM:LGR

APPROVED BY EA - PHILIP C. HABIB

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R 032320Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, ID, US

SUBJECT: US-INDONESIA JOINT COMMISSION

1. AMBASSADOR RUSMIN NURYADIN MET AT HIS REQUEST WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB SEPTEMBER 3. NOTING THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM CONSULTATION IN JAKARTA, AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ONE OF TOPICS HE HAD DISCUSSED THERE WAS STATUS OF PROPOSAL FOR JOINT COMMISSION AGREED UPON AT JULY 5 CAMP DAVID MEETING.

2. ACCORDING TO RUSMIN, PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAS ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PURSUING JOINT COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO ECONOMICS AFFAIRS MINISTER WIDJOJO. AS GOI ENVISAGED IT, COMMISSION WOULD BE HEADED BY A CABINET MINISTER AND WOULD CONCENTRATE PRIMARILY ON ECONOMIC SUBJECTS, ALTHOUGH BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY TOPICS WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED IF AGREEABLE TO US. GOI WOULD LIKE TO SEE JOINT COMMISSION FORMALLY ESTABLISHED BY END OF 1975.

3. MR. HABIB OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD NOT YET BEEN MUCH DISCUSSION BETWEEN US AND INDONESIAN SIDES ON JOINT COMMISSION PROPOSAL. WE WOULD CERTAINLY LOOK INTO POSSI-
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BILITY OF AIMING FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT BY YEAR'S END,

ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS OF SCHEDULING AND AGENDA TO
CONTEND WITH. WE WERE ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS THAT COMMISSION,
ONCE ESTABLISHED, HAVE SUBSTANCE TO IT RATHER THAN BEING
A MERE SHOW.

4. MEANWHILE, MR. HABIB CONTINUED, WE WOULD SUGGEST TO
AMBASSADOR NEWSOM THAT HE GET IN TOUCH WITH MINISTER
WIDJOJO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON INDONESIA'S THINKING
IN THE MATTER. AMBASSADOR RUSMIN NOTED THAT WIDJOJO HAD
UNTIL RECENTLY BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S
AUGUST 17 SPEECH AND OTHER PRESSING DUTIES BUT WOULD NOW
BE GIVING MORE THOUGHT TO THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL.

5. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU SHORTLY ABOUT STATUS OF
COMMISSION PROPOSAL HERE IN WASHINGTON. MEANWHILE, YOU
MAY WISH SOUND OUT WIDJOJO FOR HIS THOUGHTS ON PROPOSAL.
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